Impact of Fertilizer Pricing on Domestic Units

2394. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether, as a result of some recent decisions on Fertilizer Industry Pricing, the viability of domestic fertilizer plants will be affected, in turn, reducing the domestic production;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to meet the demand of fertilizers, by increasing imports; and

(c) if so, whether any assessment of the impact on international price of fertilizers has been made, normally shoot up whenever there is heavy import by India, leading to higher subsidy on imports, as was the experience in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Government does not expect the adverse impact on the viability of urea units and decline in the production of indigenous urea on account of implementation of policy parameter for the 7th and 8th pricing periods *w.e.f.* 1.7.1997 to 31.3.2000 and 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2003, respectively.

Bids for FACT

2395. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has invited Expression Of Interests (EOI) for the sale of 51 per cent stake in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT);

(b) if so, what are the minimum qualifications fixed for the prospective bidders; and

(c) what is the total asset of FACT, as on 30th September, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has invited Expression Of Interests (EOI) for the sale of 51 per cent stake in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT).

(b) the prospective bidders should have a combined Net Worth in excess of Rs.200 crore as well as Sales in excess of Rs.600 crore as per